

Excel formulas that still matter in 2026.

D8A.ACADEMY/RESOURCES/EXCEL - FORMULAS

LOOKUPS

XLOOKUP(v, A:A, B:B)	the modern one
INDEX(B:B, MATCH(...))	the classic combo
VLOOKUP(v, A:B, 2, 0)	legacy, 0 = exact

CONDITIONAL MATH

SUMIFS(S, C, "x")	sum if
COUNTIFS(C, ">100")	count if
AVERAGEIFS(S, C, "x")	average if
SUMPRODUCT(a, b)	weighted sums

TEXT

TRIM(x) · CLEAN(x)	strip junk
TEXTSPLIT(x, ",")	split
LEFT(x, 3) · RIGHT(x, 2)	slice
SUBSTITUTE(x, "a", "b")	swap

DATES

TODAY() · NOW()	current
EOMONTH(d, 0)	month end
NETWORKDAYS(a, b)	workdays only
DATEDIF(a, b, "d")	gap, hidden fn

LOGIC

IF(test, yes, no)	branch
IFS(t1, v1, t2, v2)	many branches
IFERROR(x, 0)	no #N/A walls
AND() · OR()	combine tests

SPILL MAGIC

FILTER(A:C, C:C>0)	query in a cell
UNIQUE(A:A)	distinct list
SORT(x) · SORTBY(...)	ordered spill
LET(x, ..., x*2)	← name things. stay sane.

WORTH MEMORIZING

01 XLOOKUP, complete

One formula, exact match by default, graceful when nothing is found.

```
=XLOOKUP(
  A2,           -- what to find
  Prices!A:A,   -- where to look
  Prices!B:B,   -- what to return
  "not found") -- instead of #N/A
```

→ No column counting, looks left or right, and the fourth argument kills #N/A at the source.

02 Trap: the spreadsheet lies politely

Three defaults that produce confident wrong numbers.

THE SETUP	WHAT HAPPENS	THE FIX
VLOOKUP without the 0	approximate match, wrong row	always end with 0, or XLOOKUP
numbers stored as text	SUM returns 0, no error	Text to Columns → General
merged cells	sort and formulas break	unmerge, Center Across Selection

→ Excel rarely errors. It answers the question you accidentally asked, with full confidence.